

I Guess Hawkins did a 180 by MyLungsHaveGoodIntentions

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Summary:

Billy attends a Hawkins High football game 25 years after Season 3 and overhears some homophobia (Obviously Billy lived)

I Guess Hawkins did a 180

'Hawkins High did a 180' Billy thought as he reversed his camaro into an open parking space of the newly paved parking lot. The last time he stepped foot onto this property was back in 85', last day of school his junior year. He didn't return for senior year due to recovery from Star Court taking up most of the first semester. Instead, he had opted to get his GED and jump right into working on cars.

He turned the rearview mirror to look at himself, moving his fingers through the sides of his hair. He no longer sported his mullet, but instead a shorter cut that complimented his face nicely. Other than hair, age, and a scar across his stomach hidden beneath clothes, his physical appearance was pretty much the same as when he was 17.

He lit a cigarette for his short walk after exiting his car. The October wind was chilly on this Monday night, but he was used to it by now. He could feel his phone vibrating in his back pocket but ignored it as he took in the scenery around him. This school really came together in the last 25 years. The outside had an obvious remodel. The paint was bright and the landscaping looked well maintained. They even had a fucking statue of some guy Billy assumed was important to the school in some way. He didn't care enough to stop and read the plaque.

When he approached the large gates with bright lights beyond it, he stomped the butt of his cigarette out before removing his ticket from his jacket along with a piece of gum. He was gonna be here for a couple hours and needed something to deter him from wanting a smoke. The man at the gate let him by and Billy took in yet another new feature of this school.

Before him was the newly renovated football field: The field his son would be playing on tonight. The team was a couple games into the season already, but due to tight deadlines at work Billy had to miss them games. He had heard of how nice everything was now but to see it first hand was a different feeling.

He pulled his phone out of his pocket to look at the texts he received

on the way in. Strict instructions to get popcorn before heading to the stands. Typical.

It wasn't hard to spot the concession stand. It was the most lit up area besides the field itself. An overwhelming smell of pizza and popcorn hit him as he wandered towards the line. It was weird seeing the type of kids that now inhabited the same school some would say he once ruled. For one, the style was nothing like the 80s. All the girls walking around looked so much older than they really were. The boys all looked like thugs in their over sized pants and hoodies. He caught himself wondering if that's the way adults seen him when he was that age. Maybe this is why kids always felt so misunderstood.

The other thing that caught Billy's eye as he inched closer to the cashier was this couple that walked towards the condiment table on the left. They were standing in front of Billy with only a one customer buffer in between but he didn't notice them before. They were smiling as they looked at each other, no question to anyone else who seen that the two were enjoying each other's company. An openly gay couple that attended Hawkins High. He didn't realize he was staring until he heard 'NEXT' get yelled from the cashier. Only then did he notice how distracted he was.

"Sorry" he smiled lightly at her as he pulled his wallet out of his pocket.

"Don't apologize" The woman, who was at least a decade younger gleamed back. "What can I get for ya, cutie?" She asked, noticeably fluttering her eyelashes a bit more than normal as she leaned on the counter.

"Just a popcorn and a soda" he responded as she propped herself back up, realizing he wasn't going to try and flirt. She looked a little surprised. Probably one of those faculty members who gets around with all the lonely staff. They exchanged money and she instructed him to the condiment table for napkins and straws. After a thank you, he made his way there only to notice the couple now talking with an older man, probably around his own age. A feeling in his gut turned as he got closer, until he could overhear the conversation.

"— already apologized"

“Do you not know what stay away from my son means? Its a sin.”

So things wernt as different as they used to be. That was all Billy needed to hear. He walked up to the 3 of them with a confused look on his face.

“Everything good over here?” He asked calmly, eyebrow raised. He was looking back and forth between them. The teenagers stiffened a bit more. Billy remembered when that used to be him. He felt like he understood them with no exchange of words.

The older man spoke first. “This one your kid?”

Billy shook his head. “Not mine.”

“Then were good over here.” He answered looking back at Billy. He didn’t recognize the guy, granted its not like he spent much time in the high school. He was only there one year and only actually showed up to class half the time.

Billy directed his attention to the kids. “You guys alright?” He could feel eyes staring daggers at him until the question was asked, the mans eyes then focused on the boys almost as if they had an unspoken language.

“He’s my dad” the smaller of the two shrugged only looking at Billy through glances.

“Doesn’t answer the question.” Billy said assertively, the corners of his lips starting to curve. Always the first tell of him starting to get angry.

“I think it does.” The dad stated. “Were talking about a private family matter and I’m his father.. So if you can excuse us that way we can fini—“

“There you are.” Steve interrupted walking up beside Billy. “I’ve been texting you but you haven’t answered.” Steve turned his sight to the other three, before taking a quick glance at Billy. He cracked a half smile, feeling the tension, at the man now across from him. “Hey, Trevor. Long time no see.”

“Harrington” he smiled realizing a mutual buffer walked up. “Long time no see, Pal.” Billy scoffed, thinking ‘what a pussy’ but the guy ignored him. “What’re you doing here?”

“My sons actually playing tonight.” Steve smiled. He always smiled when he talked about Zack, he was so proud of him.

“No shit, my oldest is too. Yours a junior or senior?”

“Junior.”

Billy was getting angrier by the second. The way this Trevor guy went from angry dad to normal guy in the blink of an eye reminded him so much of his own father. He looked at the two boys just standing there, obviously scared shitless. He knew what they were thinking. How they were feeling.

“So wheres the wife?” The guy asked. “You still with Nancy?” This brought Billys attention back to the conversation. He could feel himself smiling now. Not a happy smile but a pissed off smile.

“Oh, no.” Steve laughed lightly for a second. He started to gesture to Billy when he was cut off.

“Typical ladies man, Steve! Cant tie him down.” The guy laughed. Steve looked as confused as Billy was. However they knew each other, they clearly didn’t know each other well. The small talk alone was enough to prove that, let alone the perception of Steve this guy had. When Billy moved to Hawkins, Steve was known as the guy who gave up his king status for a girl who later dumped him. He considered maybe this guy was just trying to talk guy talk as a hidden statement to his son. Neil used to do that to him sometimes.

“Well actually,” Steve spoke gesturing “this is my husband, Billy. I dont know if you ever met him in High school.” He turned his attention to Billy. “He was in your grade but transferred after first semester.” Steve whispered to Billy to try to jolt a memory. Billy didn’t even try to remember, too amused at the look of interest on the teens faces and confusion on the mans.

Trevor cleared his throat. He looked at Billy and intimidation

radiated through his hand movements. "Billy Hargrove." He nodded. "I was there for a couple months after you got there. You- uh, you were another guy the ladies pawned over I thought?"

"When you suck dick as good as me its a sin not to be a fag" Billy answered with narrowed eyes. Steve stared at him, confused and cheeks turning pink. He knew how much Billy hated that word, and to be honest Billy wasn't sure why he used it. Maybe to try to take some power away from Trevor even if it wasn't his battle. It felt like his battle. It felt like he was talking to Neil and actually able to stand up for himself now.

He shoved the soda and popcorn into Steve's hands, who almost didn't catch them, and took a few steps closer to Trevor.

"If you remember that about me you probably remember what a short fuse I have" Billy smirked, tongue out as he wrapped his hands into the collar of the clearly shaken man's shirt.

"Billy.." Steve said noticing a few by passers now stopping to watch what was going on.

"Listen.." Trevor said raising both of his hands like he didn't want a problem he already had. "I don't know what you think you heard but—" his sentence cut off by the jolt of Billy pulling him closer.

"Billy—" He felt a hand on his shoulder now. He looked back to see Steve with a worried expression and at least two dozen people watching. Billy let his grip go, the man panting heavily like he was holding his breath.

"You kids are sitting with us for the game." Billy stated. The kids nodded, Steve picked his items off the table, and the four proceeded into the stands.

In bed that night, after their family celebrated the team's win with Zack and Max, who had showed up around halftime, Billy couldn't get those boys out of his head. He had found out while talking with them that their names were Austin and Brian. Brian's dad was the

asshole. It was almost too similar a situation to how Billy's childhood was. A two kid home, one kid the prized jock and the other a punching bag for being gay. The mother didn't contribute to the abuse but also didn't intervene. Austin's parents were accepting and loved Brian. Austin was Brian's Steve.

Not long into the night, Brian had agreed to let Steve text Tommy who, had taken Hoppers place as chief after he retired. It was shocking to all when Tommy decided to even become a cop, but he honestly did an amazing job. Him and Carol were never able to have children, so he always had a soft spot for situations involving child abuse, just as Hopper did. Tommy was off duty at the time, but paid them a visit at the game anyway. He assured them the boys would be safe tonight. He himself would personally escort Brian to grab a bag and ensure they make it to Austin's to spend the night. He also promised as long as both boys give statements, he could have a warrant to bring Trevor in for questioning once courts opened tomorrow. Still, Billy could not get them off his mind.

"You ok?" Steve asked cuddling into Billy.

He didn't speak at first. Not because he wanted to ignore Steve but because he honestly wasn't sure.

"I'm proud of you." Steve spoke once more and honestly this took Billy off guard.

"Proud of me?"

"Yea" Steve said pushing a kiss into the back of his head. "You seen something wrong and you intervened."

Billy once again didn't answer.

"Billy are you ok?"

"We don't know what's going to happen to him." Billy mumbled.

"Tommy's going to help him." Steve tried to assure but it didn't work.

"It's easy to say that. We don't really know this kid's situation." Billy answered. "We don't know how that family will survive without the

dads income. We dont know if the brother and mom are going to resent Brian for going to the police on their old man. You dont know, Steve.” The switch from we dont know to you dont know caught Steve off guard and finally, he realized what was going on.

“Billy..” Steve spoke softly. “I know you’re thinking so much about this because of Neil..” and with that Steve could feel Billy tense. Even after 20 years of no contact with the man, he still had that power over his son. “Baby I promise we’ll go to the station and talk to Tommy first thing in the morning and see if theres anything we can do.”

“He needs out of that house.”

“He’s staying at Austins tonight, Bill-“

“No, Steve.” He said rolling over to face his husband. “He needs out permanently. His dads not going to jail unless he has some other shit on his record. This kid has no proof. Its all he said she said.”

And Steve knew he was right.

“He needs to be emancipated. Even if some fifteen, sixteen year old kid gets the ok on that who knows if Austins parents will take him in.”

“Brian and Austin said they love him.”

“Yea, but taking on a whole other kid is a lot. Not to mention did you hear the address Austin gave Tommy?”

“Your old street?”

“MY old street. Those houses aren’t big, they don’t have money, Steve.”

Steve was quiet for a second. “What about us?” He whispered.

Billy stared at him. “Steve thats a big commitment..”

“We can talk more about it tomorrow” Steve said glancing at the clock and closing his eyes. “Its almost 1am.”

“Steve we cant take in another kid. Zacks a handful these days as it is.”

“Billy...” Steve mumbled. “Tomorrow please..”

Billy agreed and tried his best to drift to sleep. He dreamed about his father that night.

As discussed first thing when the station opened the next day Billy and Steve were there. Tommy walked through the door a half hour after open.

“Takin Hoppers role too serious huh, Hagan? Strolling in late like him and all. You got donuts hiding in your drawer?”

“Shut it, Hargrove.” Tommy answered plopping in his chair and taking a sip of the coffee waiting for him at his desk. “Who let you in my office anyway?” He asked raising an eyebrow.

“If you were here on time it coulda been you” Billy smiled and that made Tommy laugh. “How did the rest of last night go?”

“Went ok. Reason I was late is because I was getting that warrant dumb dumb.” Tommy said readjusting himself in his chair. “They’re gonna bring Mr. Robinson in for questioning soon but they probably aren’t going to be able to do much since theres no evidence of physical abuse on the boy.” Billy and Steve glance at each other.

“Already expected that. What about emancipation?” Billy asked.

“We talked about that last night on the way to Austins.”

“Was it something he’s interested in?” Steve asked.

Tommy nodded. “It was yea. We had a talk for a little just us. Austin went inside his house to get ithe couch ready for Brian to stay. They cant sleep in the same room” Tommy shrugged. “Cant blame the parents. Boys at that age cant keep their hands to themself.”

“I always swore you and Carol were gonna end up teenage parents.”

Steve joked to lighten to mood not even realizing what he said. You could see the sting in Tommys eyes at that. Fuck why did Steve always say stupid shit. "I'm sorry Tommy, fuck I didn't mean that."

"Yea" Tommy answered. "No yea its fine. That actually kinda brings me to what I was gonna say." Tommy answered a little spacey. Steves comment obviously caught him off guard. "I spent some time with Brian last night, and I'm going to help push the emancipation papers through and he's gonna stay with me. I talked with Carol already and shes actually thrilled." Tommy looked away as he spoke, sipping his coffee right after. It was obvious to Billy he was going to get emotional if he didn't take a second. He wondered if Steve could also tell.

Tommy spoke again after a moment. "Hargrove" he started, clearing his throat. "If you dont mind making a statement of what you witnessed it may help. An adult statement of an altercation from an outsider can mean something in these situations."

Billy nodded. He didn't witness much but he was sure what he saw was nothing short of that man intimidating two boys and he would be sure to include their physical distress in the statement as well. "You're a good guy, Tommy."

Maybe Hawkins really did make a 180.